

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE FOR ALL ITS WORTH

CHAPTER 3 – THE EPISTLES:
LEARNING TO THINK CONTEXTUALLY

NATURE OF EPISTLES

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 - They are all from the 1st Century

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 - Important to employ *mirror reading*

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- The Then and There becomes hyper-critical
- Leaping to the Here and Now creates many issues

CASE STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

CONSTRUCTION OF A LETTER

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- Name of the Writer

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- Greeting

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- Prayer wish or Thanksgiving

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- Name of the Writer
- Name of the recipient
- Greeting
- Prayer wish or Thanksgiving
- Body
- Final Greeting and Farewell

CASE STUDY – 1 CORINTHIANS

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- Where are the natural divisions in the letter?

DIVISIONS OF THE LETTER

- Things of which Paul was informed – 1:10 – 6:20

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- Questions to Paul seeking answers

INFORMING PAUL

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- Sexual Immorality – 6:12 – 20

PAUL'S ANSWERS

- Marriage Behavior – 7:1 – 24

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- Abuse of the Lord's Supper – 11:17 – 34

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- The Collection – 16:1 – 11
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- Conclusion and Greetings – 16:13 – 24

CHAPTERS 1-4: HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- The issue – 1:10-12

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- The beginning of the answer – 1:18
- Themes of 1:18 – 3:4
- Paul's answer in 3:5 - 23
- Corinthians opinion of Paul – 4:1-5, 18-21

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- They have misunderstood the basic nature of the gospel.
- They have a wrong view of Paul.

CHAPTERS 1-4: LITERARY CONTEXT

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- What's the Point?

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- Thinking in Paragraphs

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- Read 3:1 – 4 for context

CHAPTERS 1-4: LITERARY CONTEXT

- 3:5 – 9

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- Paul and Apollos are not lords, but rather they are merely servants for the same cause.

CHAPTERS 1-4: LITERARY CONTEXT

- 3:10 – 15

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- 3:10 – 15
- This cannot be about an individual Christian as the whole church is in view. The church must be built with the wisdom of God and anchored on the cross, otherwise it is worthless.

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- 3:16 – 17

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- The Corinthian church was to be God's temple among all of the pagan temples in Corinth. An immaculate, eternal image created by God through servants' hands.

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- The parts make perfect sense within the whole.

HOMEWORK

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- Read Chapter 4 in How to Read the Bible for All its Worth